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Sent: Mon, 14 Feb 2022 01:03:26 +0000
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Bcc: Whelan, Alison
Subject: Talking Points

Here are some talking points if either of you need them for the 20h30 Cabinet meeting:

- As you are all likely aware, the slow rolls and protests continue cross the country.

- Over the last 10 days, the RCMP effectively managed a number of protests and prevented blockades across the country. In fact there has been over 50 convoy protests in RCMP jurisdiction that were managed peacefully, through communication and negotiation.

- For example, yesterday, there was a slow roll protest on PEI. Operational plans were executed by Charlottetown Police and the RCMP, which prevented a possible blockade of the Confederation Bridge. The protest, which eventually rolled into Summerside was peaceful, managed by the police of jurisdiction and the RCMP.

- Other examples include the successful management of protests in Kelowna and Osoyoos in BC yesterday as well as at the Regway Crossing in Saskatchewan, where border traffic was slowed but not prevented. Protesters cooperated with the RCMP and no incidents occurred.

- Of course there are other situations where the RCMP and policing partners have not been able to resolve. Resolution to the existing blockades is not happening as fast as anyone would like, but our actions are guided by the need to ensure officer and public safety.

- I know the integrated plan for Ottawa is of keen interest to this committee and I will get to that, but I will first provide an update on a few key locations including Windsor, Emerson and Coutts and the situation in BC.

- Then I'll circle back to Ottawa.

- All the information I'm sharing below is current as of 5pm this afternoon.

Windsor

- Enforcement has started and there have been 14 arrests and 6 vehicles towed. All charges were for Mischief. Arrests are to continue today.

- Plans are being finalized to re-open the bridge this evening.

- In addition to the resources the RCMP has already deployed to support Windsor Police and the OPP, they will provide an additional 50 resources to help protect critical infrastructure and ultimately to ensure that the ground that the progress made over the last 48 hours has gained is not lost again to protestors.

- They have about 10km of roadway to keep with WPS and OPP. We will do security at barricades, roving patrols, and a QRT function. Controlling the area will keep Huron Church open all the way to the 401. They would like us there for 5 days. We will see.

- You may have heard that a tractor trailer with approximately 3,400 firearms was stolen overnight in Peterborough. The firearms are reported to be 22 calibre rifles. There is an ongoing investigation led by the police in Peterborough. The OPP and RCMP are also involved. We don't know if it is related to the current protest but I can assure you we are treating it as a national security matter and have a National Security team working on it.

In terms of Emerson

- Lanes to the POE are closed to all commercial traffic except for live animals. Emergency vehicles and CBSA employees can make it through.

- The protest group has been informed of potential charges under the Criminal Code and provincial legislation.

- Police met with protestors this afternoon and the main group is again meeting tomorrow to make a decision on whether to stay or leave.

- In the event the discussions and threat of charges not motivate the protests to leave, we have an enforcement plan that we are ready to execute.

- Enforcement to likely occur tomorrow based on tactical planning and discussions with the provincial government.

- There is currently a blizzard in the area so very little traffic.

As for the situation in Coutts

- Highway 4 remains completely blocked at the POE.

- RCMP have made significant progress in decreasing the trucks and protestors, but we know the POE must be open. To this end, RCMP have an enforcement plan ready for execution.

- To be clear, RCMP are on the cusp of enforcement in Coutts.

In terms of British Columbia

- Yesterday, "Freedom Convoy Protests" occurred in multiple locations across the province - primarily in Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Fort St. John and the Osoyoos and Surrey border crossings.

- At the 176th St. Border Crossing there are around 30 protestors. They are adamant that they will not leave. Protestors stated that they are in charge not the police and plan to extend their protest to all POE's and the Port of Vancouver.

- This afternoon, the RCMP's Tactical Support Group is deployed to lead efforts to clear the area. Individuals arrested for obstruction and mischief will be processed and released on strict "no go" conditions as long as there are no assaultive behaviors.

- RCMP are currently moving protestors from the border and blocking vehicle access. 4 people have been arrested. Protestors are currently being held at 8th Ave and 176th St.

Moving back to Ottawa

- The intersection of Sussex and Rideau has been fortified with tractor trucks parked tightly together. The mood at this intersection was described as defiant.

- There are about 15 protestors on Parliament Hill, and approximately 350 on Wellington Street and in the downtown core. There are an estimated 505 trucks as well.

- In terms of our current deployment numbers in support of the OPS, the RCMP has 225 members, with the OPP currently at 233.

- With respect to Public Order Units, there is 33 from Durham, 32 from York, and 42 OPP members deployed.

- The RCMP also continue to have approximately 345 members deployed daily in support of our protective mandate.

- RCMP and OPP assembled the foremost experts to develop a strategic plan, including an RCMP forensic physiologist, who specializes in crowd dynamic, and possesses the necessary academic and operational credentials to provide expert evidence related to justifying the use of force.

- Their recommendations are consistent with the important lessons learned from the Ipperwash Inquiry and The Morden Report into the G20.

- This group of experts has determined that there are crowd engagement and negotiation strategies that must be relied upon before the application of force would be justified.

- The plan was developed in partnership between the OPP, RCMP, OPS, and PPS, among others with ultimate responsibility resting with Chief Sloly as the jurisdictional lead plus psychologist input.

- It has the support of the Commissioner of the RCMP, Commissioner Carrique and Chief Sloly of course.

- This afternoon, the City announced that it reached an agreement with representatives of a majority of the truckers currently parked in Ottawa neighbourhoods.
- The deal is that the protestors will:
  1. Remove all trucks from the residential districts south of Wellington Street, and from all other residential areas including the market, the Ottawa Baseball Stadium on Coventry, etc.;
  2. Agree to not backfill the residential areas currently occupied with trucks, other vehicles and/or demonstrators; and 3. Agree to not displace the truck convoy, vehicles and/or demonstrators to other residential areas in the City of Ottawa.

- The City has also asked that protestors not call for more demonstrators to come to Ottawa.
- In return, upon clear evidence of execution of the protestors' commitments, the Mayor has committed to meet with the protestors in a timely fashion.
- While this is a step in the right direction in terms of reducing the truckers footprint and impact on Ottawa, it is not a win.
- Many trucks will remain downtown and indeed will be clustered closer to Parliament.
- That said, the City has made clear that enforcement actions will continue and they will be made easier.
- The newly-created Integrated Command Centre is pleased with this development ads it is in line with the plan they have adopted to get people to leave voluntarily and shrink the footprint, prior to aggressive enforcement action.

- This agreement compliments the plan to reduce the footprint through the work of the Public Liaison Team. Integrated Command planners need to now incorporate this development into their resource and enforcement plan.